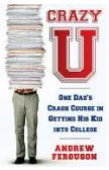
Recommended Reading

Going Geek: What Every Smart Kid (and Every Smart Parent) Should Know About College Admissions
by John Carpenter

Concise and encouraging, this is an excellent book that offers a big payout for a small investment of time.

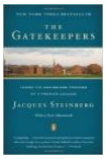


Crazy U: One Dad's Crash Course in Getting His Kid Into College
by Andrew Ferguson

Now in paperback, this is a fun read that thoroughly covers the college process from a parent's perspective. He interviews the right people and presents things very responsibly.

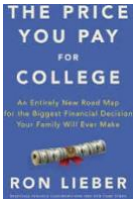
The Truth About College Admissions
by Brennan Barnard and Rick Clark

A New England college counselor (and prolific Fobes.com writer) teams up with Georgia Tech Dean of Admissions (and expert blogger) Rick Clark to offer families a road map for a successful transition to college.

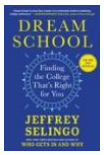


The Gatekeepers: Inside the Admissions Process of a Premier College
by Jacques Steinberg

A classic. This is a captivating look into the Wesleyan admissions office more than a decade ago, yet parents still read this book and Steinberg previously maintained one of the better admissions blogs out there (http://thechoice.blogs.nytimes.com).



It may look like a book that simply focuses on the bottom line, but New York Times finance writer Ron Lieber does an excellent job of helping us all take a step back to consider the value of a college education and just how little time we tend to spend considering college cost. He raises a number of issues to remind us that the examined college life is an ideal one.



Dream School
by Jeffrey Selingo

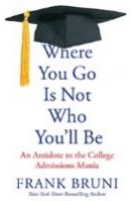
The newest book on this list, this author has produced a number of books that encourage readers to examine colleges with a wider lens. This is sure to become a classic.

The College Conversation
by Eric Furda and Jacques Steinberg

The most recently published book on this list, former Dean of Admissions at Penn teams up with former education writer from the New York Times (see book below). The result? A super-helpful guide aimed at helping families communicate effectively and focus on what matters.

How College Works
by Dan Chambliss

Chambliss, a long-tenured (and adored) sociology professor, took ten years to study what are the keys to a successful undergraduate experience. The question posed: why are certain colleges successful creating such satisfied alumni?



Where You Go Is Not Who You'll Be
by Frank Bruni

A recent bestseller, this book examines the current state of college admissions and suggests how to navigate the application process in a healthy, meaningful manner.